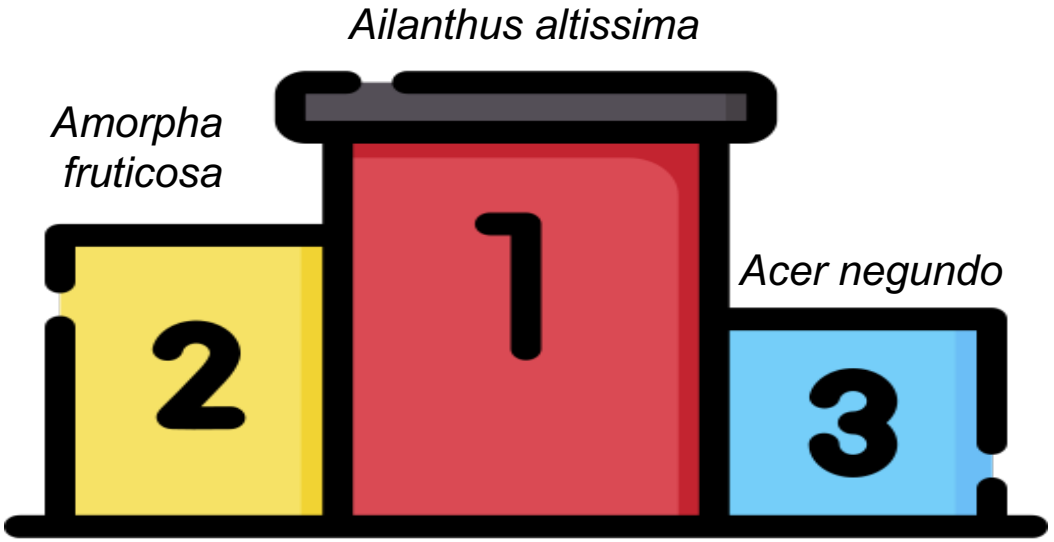
REUFIS Meeting 2025
Ljubljana, Slovenia - October 13-16, 2025

Top invasive forest plant species in Romania

Flavius Bălăcenoiu - Focal Point Romania

National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry ”Marin Drăcea”

Top invasive forest plant species in Romania



Ailanthus altissima

- The species is widespread across the country, found both in urban areas and inside forest edges, especially on disturbed or sunny sites.

- Ailanthus spreads quickly from root suckers and seeds, and is difficult to remove once established.



Female shade-tree with fruits along an urban road (male trees are rarely used as they have a foul odour during flowering).
(Copyright Marina Torres, commons.wikimedia.org: PD)

Amorpha fruticosa

- The species is **mainly found in southern Romania**, especially in the **Danube floodplain** and along rivers and canals.



- It grows in **wet habitats**, forming **dense shrubs** that can block the natural regeneration of trees.

- It represents a **serious threat to native poplars**.



Acer negundo

- The **boxelder maple** is found in **urban areas**, often near rivers or forest edges.
- In forests, its presence is still **limited and with low ecological impact**.
- It has **high seed germination and regeneration capacity**, helping it spread quickly in open sites.



Control & monitoring practices (good practices)

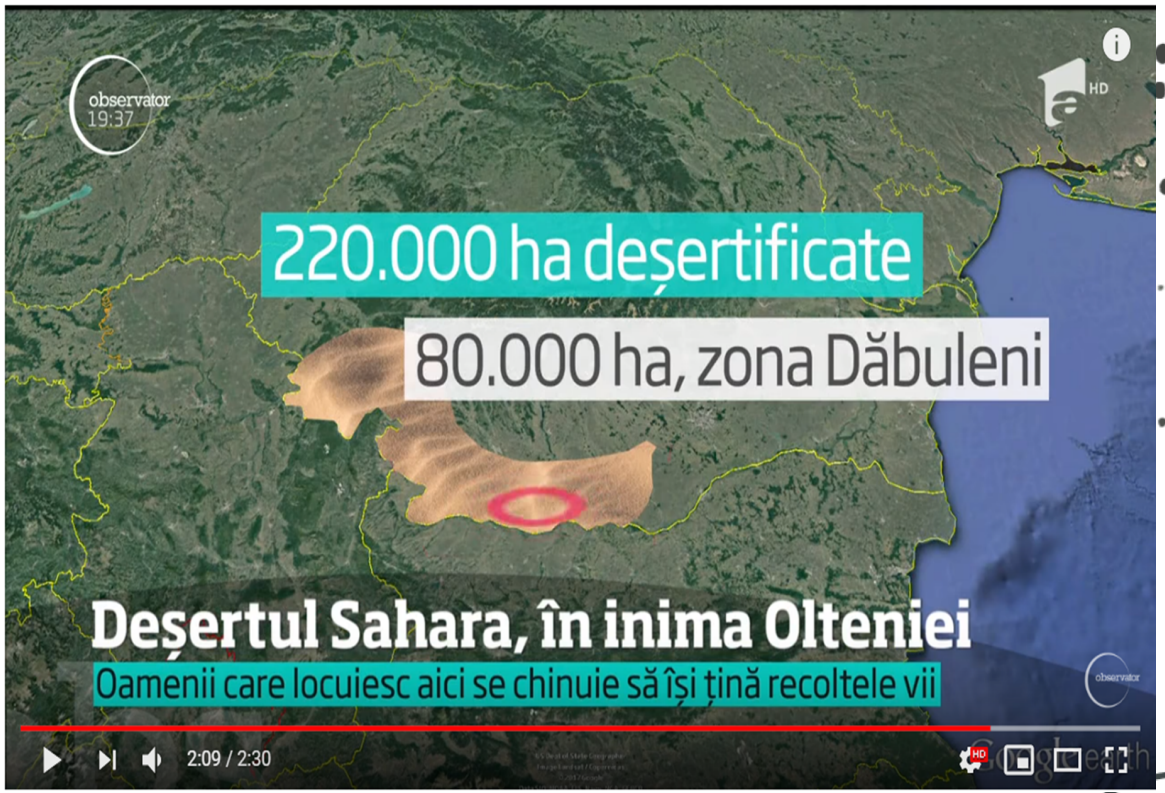
Ailanthus altissima
Mechanical removal often ineffective → re-sprouting.
In Romania monitoring only.

Amorpha fruticosa
Periodic cutting and removal before seed set (of the poplar trees).
Restoration with **native willows and poplars** helps re-establish canopy closure and suppress regrowth.
Herbicides have been tried, but they are only effective if you apply at least 3 times a year and only before the plant lignifies.
Some areas in southern Romania tested **controlled grazing** (by sheeps) as an ecological management tool. In recent years, grazing has been prohibited by law and can no longer be practiced.

Acer negundo
Monitoring only; no large-scale control needed yet.

The special case of *Robinia pseudoacacia*

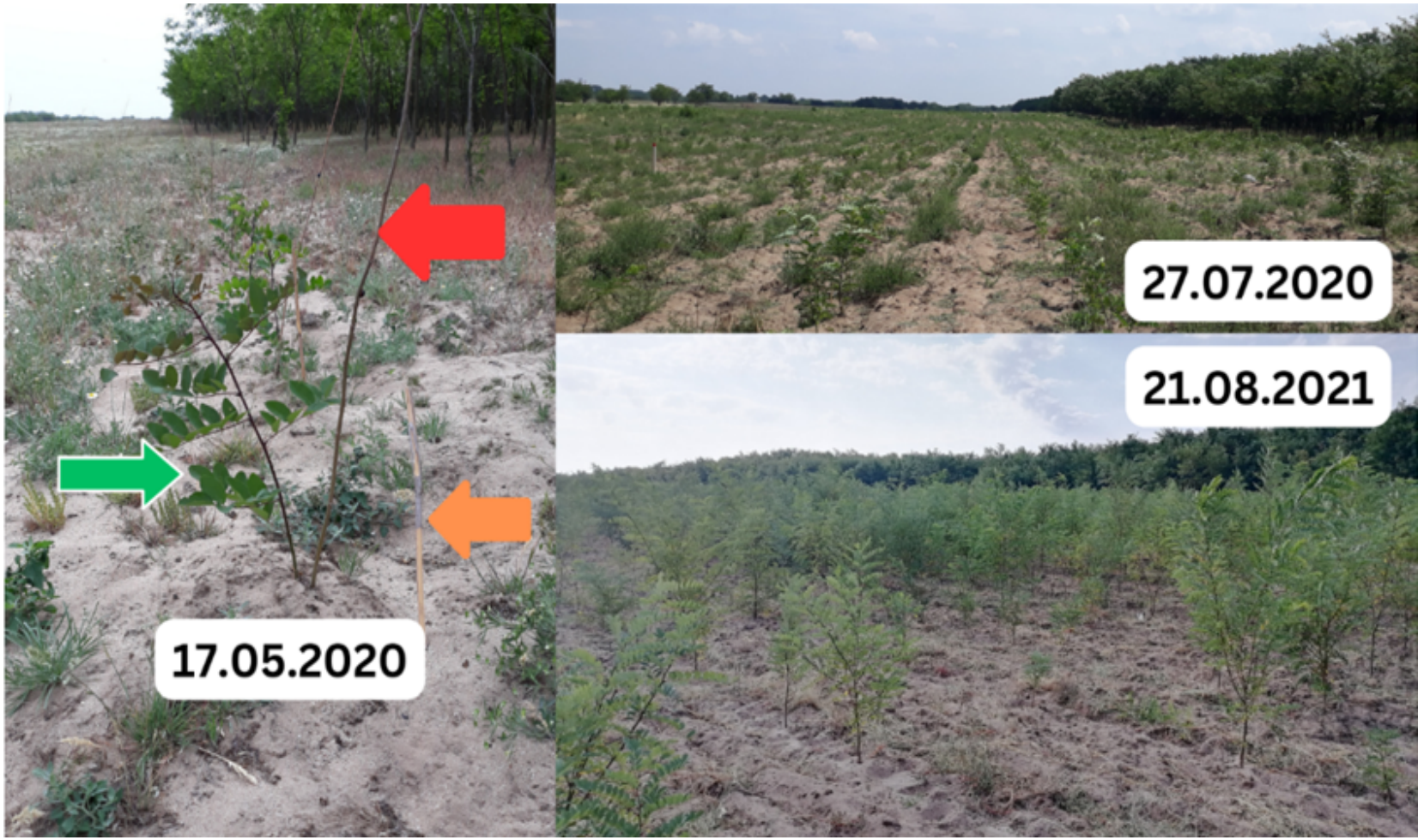
Often considered invasive elsewhere, but in Romania:
Used for **soil stabilization and sand dune protection** (e.g., Oltenia region).
Important **economic and ecological value** (wood, honey).
Not invasive within managed forest ecosystems; use is regulated and targeted






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The special case of *Robinia pseudoacacia*



The list of the main invasive alien insect species from Romania









1. *Aproceros leucopoda*
2. *Cameraria ohridella*
3. *Hyphantria cunea*
4. *Obolodiplosis robiniae*
5. *Parectopa robiniella*
6. *Macrosaccus (Phyllonorycter) robiniella*
7. *Gilletteella (Adelges) cooleyi*
8. *Eopineus strobus*
9. *Ips duplicatus*
10. *Dasineura gleditchiae*
11. *Phyllonorycter issikii*
12. *Nematus tibialis*
13. *Neoclytus acuminatus*
14. *Prociphilus fraxinifolii*
15. *Corythucha arcuata*











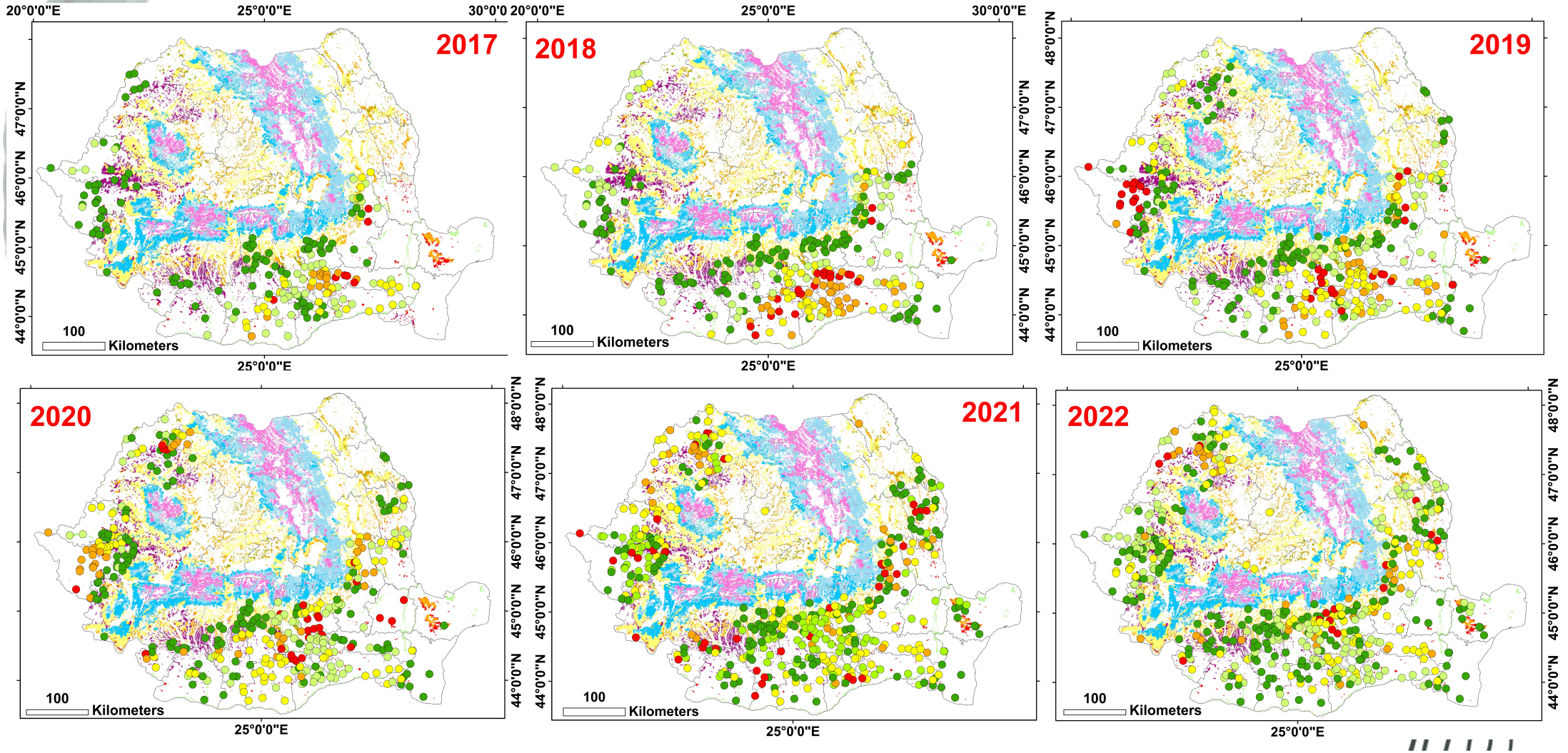
Oak lace bug in Romania



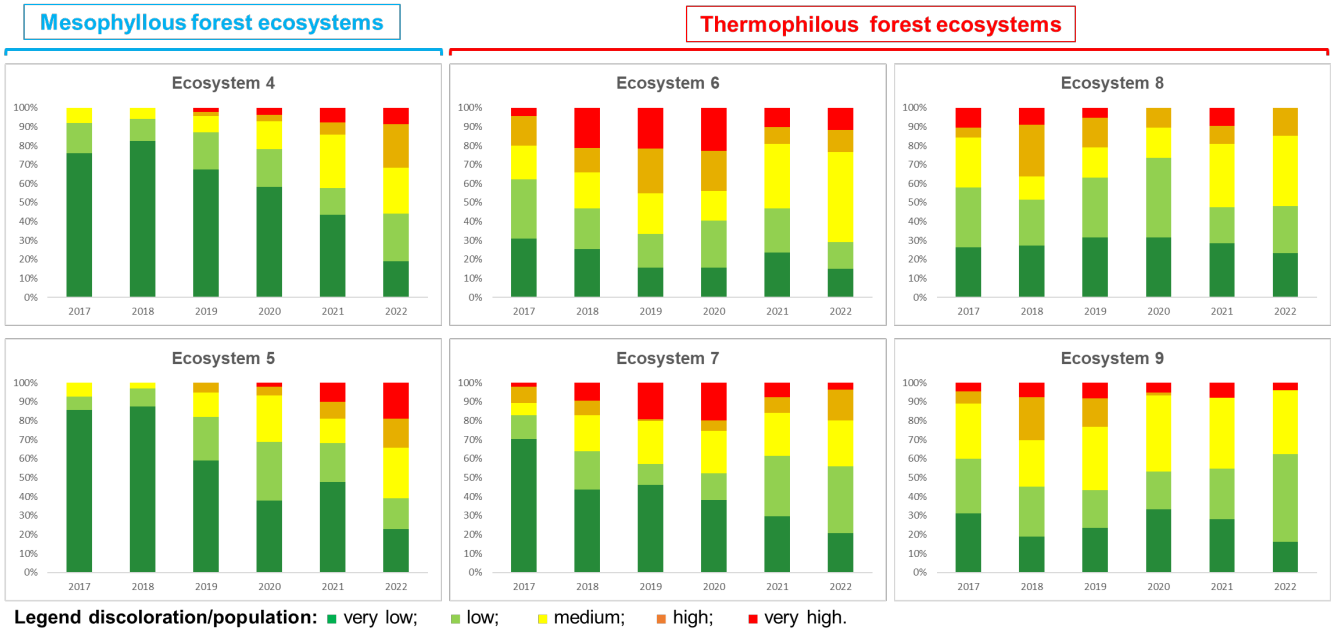




Yearly distribution patterns of oak lace bug (2017–2022) in Romanian forest ecosystems



Assessing oak lace bug damage trends (2017–2022) in Romanian mesophilous and thermophilous ecosystems.



Forest ecosystem formation		Number of OLB points	Altitude range (m)
Code [According to Doniță et al., 2008]	Name		
4	Mesophilous hill beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) forests	82	91–984
5	Mesophilous and thermophilous sessile oak (*Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl)forests	75	75–618
6	Mesophilous and thermophilous oak (*Quercus robur* L.,) forests	74	29–526
7	Thermophilous Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris* L.) and Hungarian oak (*Quercus frainetto* Ten.) forests	139	59–462
8	Thermophilous grayish oak (*Quercus pedunculiflora* K. Koch) and downy oak (*Quercus pubescens* Wild.) forests	42	0–207
9	Alluvial and wetland deciduous broad-leaved forests	64	7–375





Thank you!

flavius.balacenoiu@icas.ro

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Ecology and Management of Biotic Disturbances in Forests

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7.03.07 – Population dynamics of forest insects
7.03.12 – Alien invasive species and international trade
7.03.13 – Biological control of forest insects and pathogens

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